



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - July 23, 2003

- ***In the West***, widely scattered showers are providing limited drought relief in the ***Four Corners region***, as well as portions of ***California and Oregon***. Hot, dry weather elsewhere in the ***Northwest*** continues to stress dryland summer crops but is fostering rapid drydown and early harvest of winter wheat.
- ***On the Plains***, summer warmth is promoting development of coarse grains, soybeans, and spring wheat, but crops are still under stress from excessive heat on the ***northern and southern High Plains***. Showers and thunderstorms, some potentially severe, are expected to develop later today in the ***southern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, sunny weather favors development of summer crops and winter wheat throughout the ***Mississippi Valley***. In the ***Ohio Valley***, lingering showers and thunderstorms are keeping some farms unfavorably wet and may cause some additional stream flooding.
- ***In the South***, showers and thunderstorms continue along a cold front draped across the ***Gulf and Atlantic Coast States***, with locally severe weather possible throughout the day from ***eastern Texas through the Southeast***.

Outlook: In the ***eastern U.S.***, a pronounced trough, or southward dip in the jet stream, will keep cool, unsettled weather in the ***Corn Belt***, while a series of weak disturbances bring locally heavy rain and potentially severe thunderstorms to the ***eastern third of the Nation***. In the ***West***, high pressure will maintain mostly dry, hot conditions in the ***Rockies, Great Basin, and Pacific Coast States***, although monsoon shower activity will persist across portions of the ***Southwest and southern Rockies***. Stressful heat is expected to return to the ***central Plains*** over the next few days, raising additional concern for stress on reproductive coarse grains and soybeans. The 6-10 day outlook for July 28-Aug 1 features above-normal temperatures in the ***West***, while below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***Corn Belt, Tennessee Valley, northern Delta, and Appalachians***. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***High Plains, Gulf Coast States, East Coast, and portions of the Desert Southwest***. Below-normal precipitation is anticipated in the ***Great Lakes Region***.

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